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HEFFELFINGER, MARCUS KIDDER. Expression and Material.  
(1974)

Directed by: Walter Barker. Pp. 2.

This thesis consists of an exhibition of plaster  
reliefs.

EXPRESSION AND MATERIAL

by

Marcus Kidder Heffelfinger

A Thesis Submitted to  
the Faculty of the Graduate School at  
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
in Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Master of Fine Arts

Greensboro  
1974

Approved by

Walter Barker

APPROVAL SHEET

This thesis has been approved by the following  
committee of the Faculty of the Graduate School at The  
University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Thesis adviser Walter Barker

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The works exhibited represent a resolution to the problem of immediate expression in sculpture, a resolution usually found only in painting. The exhibit grew out of a need to think faster and a simultaneous need to work faster. My previous work was with cast polyester resin and therefore excluded spontaneity in its quantitative nature, requiring calculations of length, volume, time, etcetera, prior to working.

At the time of the exhibit, the work is in the form of reliefs and therefore basically two dimensional. The format of the relief allows for the increased working and thinking speed. The dimensions are within my arm span and in this sense allow for a working rhythm and body movement that is consistent with the material. The importance of this working method is in its application to the attitude of the artist. The material is non-precious, and therefore allows one to proceed without caution. Because there are no quantitative parameters, thinking does not have to precede working. It is by these means that one may employ spontaneity and chance.

That is not to say that there are no prior considerations or that there is no continuity of purpose, but that the considerations do not become commitments. One

may concentrate and release without concern at that moment.

The process involves mixing a batch of plaster in which two sheets of 10 ounce burlap are saturated. These are then layed out, one on top of the other. The remainder of the plaster is then applied as needed.